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| APPLICATION NO.                   | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/702,127                        | 10/30/2000  | James P. Alexander   | CA9200000 US1       | 8742             |
| 25259                             | 7590        | 06/03/2004           | EXAMINER            |                  |
| IBM CORPORATION                   |             |                      | NGUYEN, CHAUT       |                  |
| 3039 CORNWALLIS RD.               |             |                      |                     |                  |
| DEPT. T81 / B503, PO BOX 12195    |             |                      |                     |                  |
| REASEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC 27709 |             |                      | ART UNIT            | PAPER NUMBER     |
|                                   |             |                      | 2176                |                  |

DATE MAILED: 06/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|                              |                        |                     |  |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b> | <b>Applicant(s)</b> |  |
|                              | 09/702,127             | ALEXANDER ET AL.    |  |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b>        | <b>Art Unit</b>     |  |
|                              | Chau Nguyen            | 2176                |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 October 2000.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**.                            2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All
  - b) Some \*
  - c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .  |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
|  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .                                  |

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-14 are presented for examination.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chouinard, US Patent No. 6,671,701, and further in view of Brandt et al. (Brandt), US Patent No. 6,714,979.

4. As to claims 1 and 8-12, Chouinard discloses a method of synchronizing communications messages between a first back office system and a web-based application in a computer network, wherein the first back office system comprises a first back office database and a plurality of nodes for creating documents, the nodes communicating with the first back office database, the documents each being identified

with a primary key code and a timestamp designating the time of creation of each document, and the back office system generates document messages, the document messages each comprising one of the documents and primary key code and timestamp information for the one of the documents, the method comprising the steps of:

operating the web-based application database to maintain inbound document message information comprising primary key codes and said timestamps for selected document messages previously received by the web-based application database (Abstract, and col. 2, lines 14-44);

comparing the primary key code of a new inbound document message received by the web-based application database with primary key codes maintained in the web-based application database for the previously received document messages (Abstract and col. 2, lines 14-44);

selecting a pair of corresponding document messages by identifying any one previously received document message having a primary key code corresponding with the primary key code of the new inbound message (col. 7, lines 12-32);

identifying the more recent document message in the selected pair of corresponding document messages by comparing the timestamp of the previously received document message in the message pair with the timestamp of the new inbound message in the message pair (Abstract, col. 2, lines 14-44 and col. 6, line 57 – col. 7, line 32); and

updating the web-based application database to record the inbound document message information for the more recent document message, the unique inbound

document message; and the timestamps for the more recent and the unique inbound document messages (col. 2, lines 14-44).

However, Chouinard does not explicitly disclose selecting a unique new inbound document message by identifying any new inbound document message with a primary key code which does not correspond to any of the primary key codes maintained in the web-based application database. Brandt discloses a telecommunications data management/system architecture integrated with a novel Web/Internet based reporting system includes a file is read and compared to the NPA/NXX table and the country code, NPA, NXX, City Name, and State Name are used to see if that exact combination exists, and if it does not, then it will be added to the NPA/NXX table and added to the dimension add file (col. 3, line 60 – col. 4, line 23 and col. 17, line 51 – col. 18, line 6). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Brandt and Chouinard to include selecting a unique new inbound document message by identifying any new inbound document message with a primary key code which does not correspond to any of the primary key codes maintained in the web-based application database. Brandt's data management system permits use of existing hardware while allowing further growth to utilize new equipment at less cost and further allows for incremental expansion as applications and database capacities.

5. As to claims 2 and 14, Chouinard and Brandt disclose wherein the primary key comprises document type information and document identification information (Chouinard, col. 2, lines 14-44).
6. As to claim 3, Chouinard and Brandt disclose wherein the inbound document messages are communicated to an inbound queue prior to communication to the web-based application database (Chouinard, col. 4, lines 11-17).
7. As to claims 4 and 13, Chouinard and Brandt disclose wherein the inbound document messages are communicated to a multi-threaded inbound message processor prior to communication to the web-based application database (Brandt, col. 27, line 66 – col. 28, line 7. Brandt's system would support processing and storage of customer's data in a form suitable for expedient access and presentation as a report for customers over the World Wide Web/Internet).
8. As to claim 5, Chouinard and Brandt disclose wherein the inbound document messages are generated by a multi-port message generator (Brandt, col. 11, lines 6-27: Using multi-port message generator would provide process data or messages faster, more efficient and for load balancing).
9. As to claim 6, Chouinard and Brandt disclose logging an error when a new inbound message in a selected of a corresponding document messages does not have

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the more recent timestamp in the selected pair (Brandt, col. 7, lines 20-24, col. 14, lines 45 – col. 5, line 20: Brandt's system would support processing and storage of customer's data in a form suitable for expedient access and presentation as a report for customers over the World Wide Web/Internet).

10. As to claim 7, Chouinard and Brandt disclose identifying the new inbound message in a selected pair of corresponding document messages which does not have the more recent timestamp in the selected pair and segregating said new message from further processing according to a predetermined process path (Brandt, col. 15, line 51 – col. 16, line 7: for the purpose of support processing and storage of customer's data in a form suitable for expedient access and presentation as a report for customers over the World Wide Web/Internet).

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chau Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-4639. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Joseph Feild, can be reached at (703) 305-9792.

The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application is assigned are as follows:

(703) 872-9306 (After Final Communications only)

(703) 872-9306 (Official Communications)

(703) 746-7240 (for Official Status Inquiries, Draft Communications only)

Inquiries of a general nature relating to the general status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the 2100 Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Chau Nguyen  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 2176



SANJIV SHAH  
PRIMARY EXAMINER